

What is claimed is:

1. A method for extracting DNA from a biological sample, comprising contacting the sample with a highly basic solution comprising an effective concentration of a chelating agent, an effective concentration of a stabilizing agent and an effective concentration of a buffering agent.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said chelating agent is an alkali metal gluconate salt.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said stabilizing agent is an alkali metal silicate salt.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said buffering agent is an alkali metal phosphate salt.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said chelating agent is sodium gluconate, said stabilizing agent is sodium silicate, and said buffering agent is sodium phosphate.
6. The method according to claim 2, wherein said chelating agent is present in a concentration of about 1-500 mM.
7. The method according to claim 3, wherein said stabilizing agent is present in a concentration of about 1-500 mM.
8. The method according to claim 4, wherein said buffering agent is present in a concentration of about 1-500 mM.
9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said chelating agent is present in a concentration of about 10-50 mM.
10. The method according to claim 7, wherein said stabilizing agent is present in a concentration of about 10-50 mM.
11. The method according to claim 8, wherein said buffering agent is present in a concentration of about 5-200 mM.
12. The method according to claim 5, wherein said sodium gluconate is present in a concentration of about 25 mM, said sodium silicate is present in a concentration of about 25 mM, and said sodium phosphate is present in a concentration of about 75 mM.
13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said sample comprises hair.
14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said hair is a human hair.

15. The method according to claim 13, wherein said hair is not ground prior to extraction.
16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a biological sample on or within a solid matrix.
17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the solid matrix is paper.
18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the paper is FTA® paper.
19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the sample comprises blood.
20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the sample comprises blood and the solid matrix comprises FTA® paper.